

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AXIS  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC IN  
PLEASANTON

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the construction of a new community health clinic in Pleasanton, which is set to break ground in October. Axis Community Health is the sole provider of health services for indigent and low income families in Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore.

For over 42 years, Axis has ensured access to primary and preventative care to residents of the Tri-Valley. The rapid growth of the area's population coupled with changes in family income and changes made by the Affordable Care Act have left the Tri-Valley in need of additional facilities to accommodate residents in need of accessible health services.

Fourteen thousand residents rely on Axis Community Health and it is projected that by 2015, 20,000 residents will turn to Axis for medical and behavioral health services. The new clinic, slated to open next summer, will be critical to answering the growing needs of the community.

The new 24,000 square foot clinic will house 27 exam rooms, seven mental health counseling rooms, a health education classroom, an on-site patient pharmacy and a laboratory draw station.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the expansion of the Axis Community Health Center and honoring its commitment to ensuring that every Tri-Valley resident, regardless of income, can achieve and maintain good health.

**SAFE PLAY ACT**

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first Children's Cardiomyopathy Awareness Month this month.

The Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation, or CCF, is a non-profit group dedicated to raising awareness for the risk of sudden cardiac arrest in the young and helping to prevent tragic deaths.

The CCF works to raise awareness for serious cardiac conditions and provides resources and supports to families struggling with the impossible reality of discovering that their young children have critical conditions. CCF's work to bring attention to this issue and encourage better detection, prevention, and treatment for patients is important, and I thank them for these efforts. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating this organization's lifesaving work.

Today, I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5324, the Supporting Athletes, Families and Educators to Protect the Lives of Athletic Young Act, known as the SAFE PLAY Act. This legislation will provide school systems with resources to raise awareness for youth athlete safety, encourage the develop-

ment of best practices to prevent, report, and address injuries, and educate teachers, students, and coaches on the risks of cardiomyopathy and other critical cardiac conditions. It will also allow students to learn CPR and how to use an automated external defibrillator, or AED, to help prevent death in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. This legislation will increase school safety and help reduce the number of deaths from this condition on school property.

**HONORING MASTER SERGEANT  
JESSEY J. BACA**

**HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Master Sergeant Jessey J. Baca, a dedicated service member, proud family man and loyal civil servant who is entering a well-deserved retirement.

Jessey's burning passion for his country is a distinctive characteristic that he has embodied throughout his life. On October 1, 1977, just a year before graduating high school in Los Lunas, New Mexico, Jessey enlisted in the United States Navy delayed entry program.

Jessey went on to serve 4 years in the Navy aboard the USS *Coral Sea* CV 43 with Squadron VA 27 out of Naval Air Station Lemoore, California. In 1983, Jessey joined the New Mexico Air National Guard as an Electronics Technician in the Avionics department to work on A-7s and F-16 fighters. In total Jessey would spend over 37 years in military service and 32 years in federal service to the United States of America, seeing to our interests across the globe, from Belgium to Chile, France to Iceland, and halfway around the world to China.

But it was Jessey's service in Iraq that would ultimately alter the course of his life. When Jessey returned to the United States, he was confronted with a multitude of ailments: everything from cancer, to chronic bronchiolitis, chemical induced asthma, brain lesions, TBI, PTSD and a host of other health complications. There was strong reason to believe that this was caused by exposure to burn pits in Iraq.

As Jessey explained:

"Contractors were burning all the waste. Anything from body parts to metal and everything in between. Computer parts, batteries, whatever could go in there were burned and it would burn 24-7."

In unprecedented fashion, Jessey spearheaded a movement to create a national registry for veterans affected by burn pits during their service. Senator TOM UDALL of New Mexico, after meeting with Jessey, decidedly introduced the Open Burn Pit Registry Act of 2011 (S. 1798) with Senator BOB CORKER of Tennessee.

On January 10, 2013, Jessey's vision became a reality when President Obama signed into law legislation creating a national burn pit registry. The truth is that Jessey's life's work is a testament to true patriotism; not only did he fight and serve bravely on behalf of the American people, he spoke up for his fellow

service members and successfully created lasting protections for current, and future veterans returning home.

As Jessey enters his retirement, he looks forward to celebrating loving memories and time with his wife, and high school sweetheart, Maria Margaret Baca, his two girls Victoria Baca-Garcia, and Racheal Elizabeth Baca-Sweeney, and three grandchildren Ireland Ajai Lowe, Logan Kai Sweeney, and Zachary Kaikoa Garcia. Jessey's esteemed character, defined by selflessness, enthusiasm, and love of life are felt by all who know him. As he enters retirement I hope he continues to inspire future generations to give back as much as he has to our wonderful country.

**TRIBUTE TO MG (RET) JOE  
ROBLES**

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank an important leader in the San Antonio community, MG (Ret) Joe Robles. Joe will retire at the end of this year after an admirable career as a military officer, war hero, philanthropist, and the CEO and President of USAA. He will be profoundly missed by the employees at USAA, but his retirement will no doubt be felt by the greater San Antonio community and beyond.

Joe was the eldest of nine children born in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. His father, a waiter at the time, was recruited to work in a steel mill in Ohio—just as World War II ended and America was reindustrializing. When Joe was three years old, he came to the U.S. to reunite with his father who had saved enough money to bring his family to Ohio. For the next 35 years, his father worked at the steel mill and part time as a carpenter and plumber to make ends meet.

Joe learned the value of hard work early in life. At age 11, he began working as a stock boy and cashier at the local grocery store. As a teenager, he did yard work in the summers and helped his father on plumbing and construction jobs. It was this hard work that motivated Joe to pursue higher education. While in high school, Joe was awarded a medical school scholarship sponsored by the local medical society. The scholarship would pay for his education under the condition of returning to his hometown to practice medicine. He had to first earn an undergraduate degree and be accepted to medical school on his own. Joe graduated from high school in 1964 and worked that summer painting a house. The job paid enough to cover his first year of tuition at Lorain County Community College. Soon thereafter, Joe got married and took a full time job at a NASA nuclear plant.

In 1966, Joe was drafted into the United States Army. By any measure, Joe's military service was stellar. Joe served as the Chief of the Program and Budget office at the U.S. Army Headquarters, the Division Artillery commander of the 1st Infantry Division (Mech) at Fort Riley, Kansas; and the Army Planner and Director for Operations and Support at Department of the Army Headquarters.

As assistant division commander of the 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, Texas, he prepared and deployed the division for Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm. He also